



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2017 Biennium

Bill # HB0194

Title: Revise bison laws

Primary Sponsor: Redfield, Alan

Status: As Introduced

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2018 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2019 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 194 would only have a fiscal impact in the event of a bison transplant.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

- FWP is currently working on a programmatic EIS for bison. An alternative in the EIS is the no action alternative, which would mean no bison would be transplanted.
- If an alternative other than the no action alternative was selected, then additional MEPA would be required that would analyze site specific impacts, including a forage analysis.
- Because of the above two items, it is uncertain whether a transplant would occur during this biennium.
- If a transplant occurs in the future, a forage analysis would cost approximately \$0.54/acre based on today's rates (source: NRCS's Technical Provider rate). There is no way to predict the number of acres involved.

Department of Livestock

- Forage analysis and carrying capacity for the management of wild buffalo are to be conducted by range scientists.
- The Department of Livestock does not have a range scientist and such an analysis is not within its mission.

7. The bill is specific that such an analysis would be done by Montana State University or the US Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date